

REMARKS

Claims 1 - 2, 4 - 7 and 9 are pending. Claims 3 and 8 have been canceled. Claims 1, 4 and 9 have been amended.

Claim Rejections:

Claims 1 - 2, 4 - 5 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,545,253 (Avicola). Additionally, claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Avicola in view of the prior art disclosed in Fig. 3 of the present application.

The Office Action indicated that claims 3 and 8 - 9 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all limitations of their respective base claims and any intervening claims. In light of this, Applicant has amended independent claims 1 and 4 to incorporate the subject matter of claims 3 and 8, respectively. Therefore, claims 1 and 4 should be allowable.

Previously numbered claims 3 and 8 have been canceled.

Claims 2, 5 - 7 and 9 also should be allowable because they depend from an allowable claim.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of all rejections and allowance of each pending claim.

Claim Objections

Claim 4 was objected to because the word "an" in line 3 should have been "a." Applicant has amended claim 4 to replace "an" in line 3 with "a." Applicant requests withdrawal of this objection.

Drawing Objections

The Office Action indicated that Fig. 3 should be designated by a legend such as "Prior Art" because only that which is old is illustrated. Applicant has amended Fig. 3 to include the legend "Related Art." A replacement sheet is attached.

Applicant : Nobuaki EMA
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134167M/YS

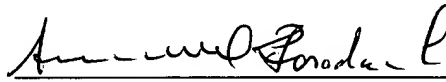
Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the Fig. 3 objection.

It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue or comment does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

No fee is believed to be due. However, please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 12/9/04



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Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached replacement sheet of drawings includes changes to Fig. 3 and replaces the original sheet including Fig. 3.

In Fig. 3, the designation "RELATED ART" has been added.

Attachments following last page of this Amendment:

Replacement Sheet (1 pages)